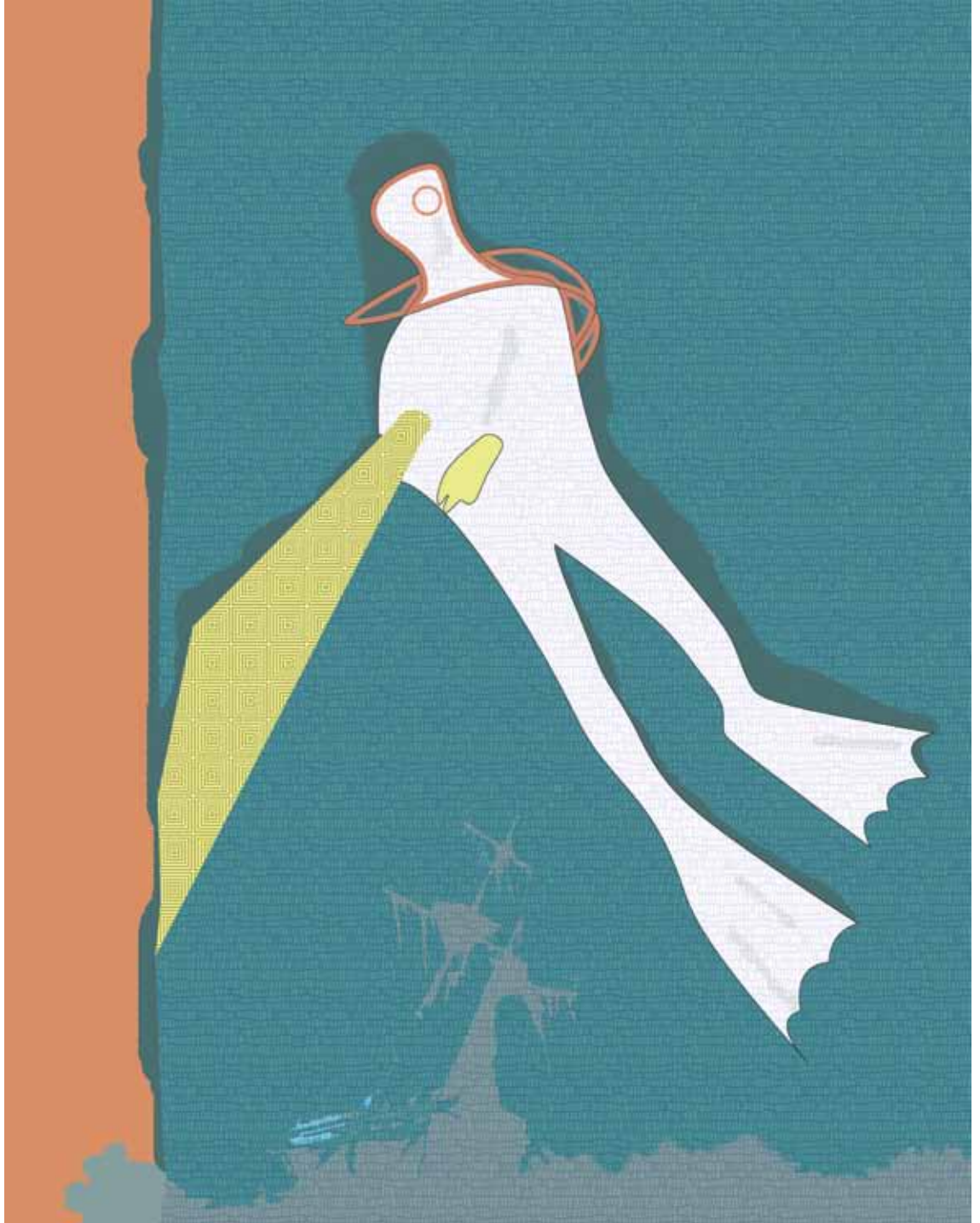




anglo-spanish Society

Quarterly Review 226 Summer 2010



in this issue

*summer party...subaqua archaeologist...
the spanish transition...the golden age of
spanish theatre ... awards... basque cooking*

from the editor

BY ADRIAN WRIGHT

When we revised the format of the Review last winter, I quoted some of the fears expressed by members about the change. It seems only fair, then, to quote from the responses that we have received to the first two issues: "The format of the new Anglo-Spanish Quarterly is great; really 'with it' and a good image of the Society" (Dr Linehan). "May I congratulate you and other members of the Executive Council of the Anglo-Spanish Society on your Quarterly Review, and especially in its new format. The new, elegant format matches the high quality of the Review's contents, which combine well-researched articles on historical and contemporary subjects, with news items and a cultural and social diary which will be of great value to your members..." (Felipe de la Morena President



Alan and Margaret (Centre) introduce new members Gladys and Ian to the society

of the British Hispanic Foundation in Spain and ex-Ambassador of Spain to the United Kingdom). "I enjoyed the new-look magazine so much. It is pleasing to read, easy to find an article or piece of information, and full of readable and enjoyable articles. I am looking forward to the next issue!" (Elspeth Hinsler). "I really think the new format is excellent. The larger size allows more room and space for photographs and the articles are easier to read. With its wide variety of articles it is without doubt an outstanding success – congratulations to all involved!" (Alan Gregory). "Congratulations on the new Quarterly Review. Its new format and liberal use of colour offer an exciting new look. I like the front cover which hints at the copy inside, and entices us to look within. I like the new cooking section, the social butterfly, and finally the pieces which serve to

leave the more serious

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society news

The Chairman, Dame Denise Holt.

writes ...

stuff." (Jennifer Vaughan).

We have also had recommendations for improving the Review even further, and we have tried to take these on board. Please keep the comments coming – the critical as well as the positive.

In this edition we have tried to live up to readers expectations. We aim to deliver a review that is varied, informative, and stylish. The contents range from Chairman Dame Denise Holt's remarkable historical research on the Transición, to the moving account by Raquel Pérez Rubio on how she has benefitted from the grant she received from the Society. The complexities and challenges of Spain today are given original insight thanks to the personal experience of our businessman in the spotlight, Carlos Oppe, an Englishman working in Spain. Our reviews aim to provide a similarly rich mix of coverage from the tradition of the Coplas to football at its most eclectic-and Spanish food at its most delicious!

The section highlighting the Society's events really shows how busy (and successful) we have been on the social and cultural front and our events and grants teams are to be congratulated on their efforts.

For my own part, I would like to thank our Vice Chairman Jimmy Burns and our designer Steve Bunn for their wonderful help and inspiring work on the Quarterly Review which has elicited the comments at the head of this editorial.



President: Carles Casajuana i Palet,
His Excellency The Spanish Ambassador
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Dear Members,

The Society has had a busy few months, with a wide range of activities to suit all tastes on offer. From a fascinating visit to the Royal College of Arms, through a magnificent classical concert at which a host of talented young performers impressed us all with their repertoire and professional skills, to a well attended networking event at the prestigious Chinawhite club, and a large screen viewing of the Spain/Honduras World Cup match organised with the Spanish Chamber of Commerce. We have also cross-promoted our events with those of the Cervantes Institute.

In addition the Spanish Ambassador hosted two events of particular importance in the Society's annual calendar: the award of scholarships to five brilliant young people, and the annual young members party, a terrific event with delicious food and wine and a great band. On a warm (no, hot!) evening, people danced the evening away in the garden. Much networking was done, and people caught up with friends they hadn't seen for a while.

Your Council's objective is to ensure that members of all ages and tastes will find things to enjoy during the year. In the coming year we hope to give you more advance notice of our monthly events, with the programme published in outline six months ahead of time. In response to popular demand, we plan to organise a social get-together (e.g. lunch or dinner in a tapas bar) roughly every quarter. With our existing keynote events (Summer and Christmas parties) and the musical concert (which I hope will become a regular Easter event),



Dame Denise Holt with His Excellency The Spanish Ambassador Carles Casajuana i Palet

this will leave us room for three or four variable events - like Chinawhite or the football match. We'd like your ideas: this your society. So please let us know what you'd enjoy.

In addition, we will continue to insert smaller events - such as the tour of Sotheby's Spanish art - when the opportunity arises. Wherever possible we will inform all members, but please be aware that the website is the main source of up-to-date information, and that where we become aware of an external event of interest to members we may not be able to draw it to the attention of members who do not have email addresses. You can, of course, access the website in any internet cafe or Library.www.anglospanishsociety.org

I look forward to meeting as many as possible of you at the Society's AGM in October.



society life

La Vida Loca at Chinawhite

Few recent events have better personified the Anglo-Spanish Society's openness to innovation and creativity as a way of reaching out to young and new members than the evening hosted in mid May at London's Chinawhite nightclub, writes Sancho Panza.

It was only in October that the popular nightclub re-opened, to great acclaim, after moving away from its premises in Soho to more elegant surroundings off Oxford Street- better known as Fitzrovia.

Chinawhite's reputation rests on a formidable heritage and a brand new, progressive and distinctive approach to evening entertainment. Inspired by London's earliest clubs dating back to the 1920's, the club is now located in a grade 11 listed building in Winsley Street.

It proved the perfect setting for the ASS's first ever Young Spaniards Network evening which counted on the support of other organisations such as the London Spanish Chamber of Commerce, and members of the International Business School.

Over one hundred young Spaniards and British with an interest in Spain enjoyed an evening of cocktails, conversation, and (for those who cared to stay on) dance into the early hours in Chinawhite's main room with its decadent range of colours, comfortable seating arrangements, and generous bar. As well as a free-drink or two, those gathered were provided by a 'goodies bag' with information about the Society and a special offer discount voucher on the latest published works by author and journalist Jimmy Burns.

In his capacity as the ASS's vice-chairman, Jimmy told the happy gathering that this was the ASS showing what it can do best, and most positively "acting as a





bridge between Britain and Spain". It was also, he added, evidence that the Society, while open to all ages, is in "in touch with youth" and what they enjoy. He urged non-members to sign up and join the Society.

"The Chinawhite guest is not defined by wealth but by a desire to exist outside of the ordinary, "boasts the club on its very attractive website. Certainly



the feedback from our members and their guests was hugely positive!

A few examples...

"It was a good evening – very nice to have met you and many others. Presumably there will be more such events, since this was so successful?" Paul

"Fantastic! I am pleased and wish to thank everyone involved. Congratulations!" Maria Amparo

"I really enjoyed the event and I am definitely going to join the association." Marta

"Gracias por la magnífica fiesta. Nos gustó mucho asistir al evento y tener la oportunidad de conocer el Anglo-Spanish Society. Seguiremos con atención vuestra web y las actividades que organicéis." Natalia, Paula. Roger y Jaime, London Business School

"I had a great time and met some really interesting people. Thanks so much for inviting me along and a big congratulations to the organizers." Anna

Summer Party



The summer party was, once again, a great success, writes Adrian Wright. All the tickets were sold out in advance (en efecto se vendieron como churros) and everybody celebrated the hottest day of the year so far by making good use of the terrace at the back of the Spanish Embassy where the band had already settled into a groove.

Formalities were kept to a minimum so that we could make the most of each other's company. His Excellency The Spanish Ambassador, Carles Casajuana i Palet, the Society's President, welcomed us and wished us a pleasant evening, and Dame Denise Holt, our Chairman, thanked him for his hospitality and our sponsors for their generosity in giving grants to our research students.

Although billed as a Young Members' Summer Evening, there was a good sprinkling of us oldies to keep an eye on them, and we would all have been happy to dance on long into the night.

The Society is most grateful to The Spanish Tourist Office for their donation, to Gonzalo Alvarez-Garrido for organising it and to Sonia Martinez for her help with the administration. And last but not least to our secretary Siobhan Songour and her assistant on the night, Maria. Their efficiency, and radiant greeting at the door put everyone in



the right mood to make the most of their evening. The occasion proved a perfect gathering for many wishing to give their thanks to Gonzalo who is being posted to Rabat after serving with dedication as a senior member of the Spanish embassy in London and of the ASS's Executive Council. Suerte, Gonzalo!



A BIG thanks go to our Executive Council members Emily Cooper and Siobhan Songour for organizing this event with energy and imagination. We are also grateful for the support of Bloomsbury Publishing and, last but by no means least, the management of Chinawhite for helping make the evening such a success.

The meeting with the happiness (and the underwater archaeology)

BY ELENA PÉREZ ÁLVARO

My current research on Management of Maritime Archaeology at University of Cambridge is examining both the archaeological and legal framework in Maritime Archaeology. The investigation is discussing current developments in Spanish and the UK national management and law concerning protection of the underwater cultural heritage within the boundaries of national and international jurisdiction. In addition, the study is reviewing some agreements of these countries with some "treasure hunters". This is a pioneering research in Spain and the UK, because illicit maritime archaeology is an incipient object of concern. No expert has had an interest in the maritime cultural and archaeological relations between these countries, yet.

Shipwrecks are unique time capsules, providing archaeologists and historians with insight into the past. However, underwater archaeology it is important not only for being an unknown source of heritage, but also because it becoming a critical point in international legal conflicts between countries with maritime heritage.

Spain and the UK surrounded by coasts, and are both significant shipping nations and two with more sunken shipwrecks in their territorial waters. However, their approaches to the international regulations are very different. This is, sometimes, a cause of disagreements between these two countries. The



Late Roman shipwreck at Pakoštane (Croatia). In 2008, the wreck was researched in the framework of an international cooperation project for the training of young scientists from Croatia, Italy, France and Greece in the field of underwater archaeology.
image: UNESCO

First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 2009) where I was invited as a guest with study purposes, offered me a unique opportunity to reinforce the importance this topic. In addition, the specialists in the area of underwater heritage protection are limited, since it is considered a multidisciplinary field. As a consequence, the

technical training that I received through fieldwork as part of the MSc in Heritage and Museum Studies combined with my undergraduate and postgraduate education in Art History is providing a solid foundation on which to build a scientific investigation. My interdisciplinary education in culture management and policy, museology, underwater archaeology, heritage management, collections running, art market and art regulations has been supported by the Master of Maritime Laws (LLM) which I am studying through the External System at University of London. In the protection of the heritage the jurisdiction plays a really important role therefore I also wanted to cover this field of the Maritime Archaeology Management.

Some of this training for the subject could have not been possible without the Abbey-Santander Scholarship I was awarded last year thanks to the Anglo-Spanish Society. This scholarship not only helped me to cover the fees at the University of Cambridge but also allowed me to pay part of my fees for the Master of Maritime Laws.

At the moment of the reception of the scholarship at the Embassy my research was going to be executed at University College of London. However, some months later I received an offer of having been admitted at University of Cambridge, and after thinking, I decided to accept the offer of the former, since the specialists in the area could help me more within my specific field.

Spain and the UK surrounded by coasts, and are both significant shipping nations and two with more sunken shipwrecks in their territorial waters.

I do not know if it was the best decision, but it was for sure an excellent one. This academic year has been wonderful. Full of new experiences and new knowledge. Cambridge is a city with a huge student atmosphere where everyday you can assist to a different event: conferences, theatre, classical music or cinema. I also have been a member of the University of Cambridge Female Football Team and we have travelled all around England to play against other universities. Some of these trips were long, but even there you could learn about different issues because everybody talked about they were more worried about: medicine, geography, sport or music. Nevertheless, if I would have to remark something which helps me to be everyday happy in Cambridge is bikes. Since I came from Madrid, this has undoubtedly been the most amazing habit for me here in Cambridge.





image: UNESCO

What do I miss more from Spain in Cambridge? I have to confess: the food, but also my parents. Although they help me with the everyday issues thanks to some Skype calls to the computer. Thanks to these never-ending video conferences with my mum while I am in the kitchen, I know how to cook paella or cocido madrileño and thanks to my dad I know how to put

up a shelf. However, the everyday support of my boyfriend makes me realize how lucky I am.

It makes me glad to think that this experience is making me grow up as a specialist in maritime archaeology but also as a person. It makes me to love life more than ever. And what makes me more pleased is to think I am creating ties between these two wonderful countries in the protection of their heritage.

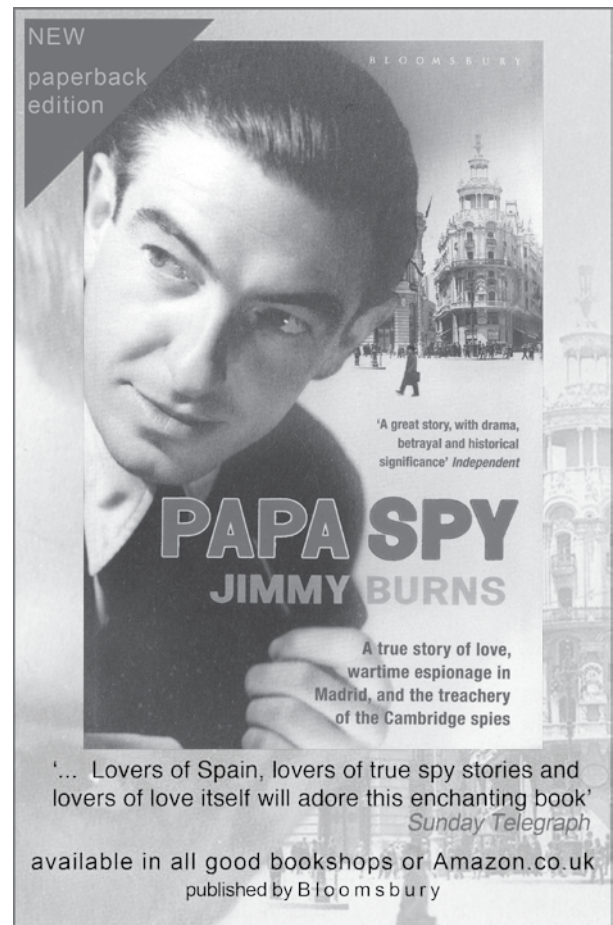
At the end of this research at University of Cambridge, I have in mind to pursue the communication of results. I will be aiming for high impact via distribution of outputs to target audiences like governments, culture ministries and organizations, and academics in the field, through seminars, workshops, new articles and networking.

My final goal in the future will be to collaborate with current maritime legal and archaeological experts in both countries to clarify the Spanish and the UK positions in the UNESCO Convention. With my supervisors in Heritage Management at University of Cambridge, I hope the investigation will be of high impact in the sphere of the Maritime Archaeology organization and protection.

Both my academic and professional trajectories have been always motivated by my commitment to the preservation of heritage. In the future, I hope to develop my career working within or in collaboration with ministries of culture or organizations like UNESCO. I hope to specialize myself in underwater archaeology. I consider this topic a priority for governments in the future because it is becoming a source of international conflicts between maritime countries, as well as a loss of heritage due to treasure hunters and the lack of regulations to protect the underwater patrimony.

I do not know how will be my future, but this experience, which has only been possible thanks to the Anglo-Spanish Society and Abbey-Santander Bank, is something I will never forget.

Thanks a lot to all of you.



Instituto Cervantes September Events

8 Sept: ACIS Conference. Lecture, 'A la conquista de una voz propia', by Elvira Lindo 6.00pm at Roehampton University, London, SW15 4JD. More details: www.iberianstudies.net

16 Sept: Series: Deciphering the Alhambra. Lecture, 'A Mathematician's Journey through Symmetry', by Marcus du Sautoy. 6.30pm at the Instituto Cervantes

21 Sept: Series: Historians of Contemporary Spain. Round-table, 'Historia y memoria de la guerra civil española', with Julián Casanova & Paul Preston. 6.30pm at the Instituto Cervantes

23 Sept-9 Oct: Exhibition tribute to Federico García Lorca: Muerto de amor. At Bhavan Gallery, 4a Castle-town Road, London, W14 9HE. More details: www.bhavan.net/event_detail.htm/99

23 Sept: London Spanish Film Festival. La escena cotidiana / Portraits of actors by Óscar Fernández Orengo. 6.30pm at IBÉRICA, 195 Great Portland St, London, W1W 5PS

24 Sept-7 Oct: 6th London Spanish Film Festival. At CINE LUMIÈRE, 17 Queensbury Place, London, SW7 2DT. More details: www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

28 Sept: Book presentation & film screening Los fantasmas de Gabo by Stephen Hart. 6.30pm

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spain today

BY QUIXOTE

A Spanish 'deputy first lady'

Spaniards had a clear dream for the British elections, writes the Guardian's Giles Tremlett. They wanted Nick Clegg to win for the sole reason that it would see a Spaniard-his lawyer wife, Miriam González, moving into Number 10.

Clegg did not become prime-minister but agreed to have his Liberal Democrat party join a coalition with the Conservative Party as David Cameron's deputy prime-minister, making Ms González, in the words of one Spanish newspaper, the "deputy first lady." "The Cleggs have made it to Downing Street, not to live, but certainly as regular visitors," the ABC newspaper reported. ABC also wondered whether three young Clegg boys with Spanish first names – Antonio, Alberto and Miguel – might now befriend the young Camerons.

In interviews with the Spanish press before the elections, González - who follows Spanish custom by using her maiden name - said she planned to keep working at the London offices of law firm DLA Piper. 12/5/2010

Zapatero popularity dips

Popular support for the Spanish government falls sharply following the announcement of an emergency austerity plan and the opposition Popular party has more than doubled its lead over the ruling Socialists in two weeks, according to an opinion poll published in the newspaper El País.

The poll was conducted the day after José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, prime minister, unveiled measures to cut the budget deficit, including a 5 per cent reduction in civil service salaries. Support for the Socialist party fell to 33.7 per cent from 37.5 per cent two weeks earlier, while backing for the conservative PP rose to 42.8 per cent from 41.7 per cent. The gap between the two rose to 9.1 per cent, the biggest lead for the opposition since Mr Zapatero came to power in 2004.

According to the FT, "the poll underlines the challenges facing Spain and other European countries with large deficits after the short-lived reprieve provided by a €750bn (\$948bn, £646bn) eurozone package agreed a week ago." 17/5/2010

Miriam González appointed non-executive director

The Spanish company ACCIONA, a world leader in renewable energy, infrastructure projects and water management, announces it has agreed with its Nominations Committee to table the appointment of Miriam González Duran as a non-executive Director at its forthcoming AGM to be held on 10th June 2010. In its statement the company says that Ms González's twelve years experience at the European Commission along with her expertise in international trade and also as a Partner at DLA Piper "will greatly contribute to the consolidation of ACCIONA's international footprint." 8/6/2010

Spanish Sports Success

Young members of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce and the Anglo-Spanish Society met for a networking evening of drinks, tapas, and football at the Hesperia Hotel in Victoria, London to watch Spain take on Honduras in the opening group stages of the World Cup finals in South Africa. Spain

progressed in the tournament and qualified beyond the quarter finals of the tournament for the first time in their history.

Meanwhile Spanish world number one tennis player Rafael Nadal swept aside his 12th seed opposition Tomas Berdych in straight sets to regain the Wimbledon crown and claim his eighth Grand Slam title on July 4 2010. The Spaniard won 6-3 7-5 6-4, in two hours 13 minutes on a sunny Centre Court packed with ecstatic supporters. Nadal subsequently referred to them as "the best crowd in the world". The match was played amid constant shouts of "Rafa, we love you".

Train tragedy

At least twelve young people, were reported killed and many others injured when they were hit by an express train while crossing the line on foot near the Catalan seaside town of Castelldefels.

The victims had been going to one of the bonfire and beach parties that happen up and down the coast of Catalonia to mark the longest day of the year and the local saint San Jordi.

Local mayor Joan Sau promised an investigation but blamed the group of people who chose to cross the tracks for the tragedy, saying they had been "imprudent". Survivors blamed the accident on the closure of an underpass and alleged that the train gave insufficient warning of its arrival. 24/6/2010

Burqa ban

The socialist-led council in the provincial capital, Lleida passes a ban on the wearing of burqas in public buildings. Women found wearing the traditional Muslim clothing will first be given a warning, but any repeat will lead a fine of between euros 300-euros 600.

"This is about equality between men and women," says Mayor Ángel Ros. "The burqa and the niqab are symbols of the political use of a religious dogmatism that had begun to appear in Lleida. Conservative opposition parties – including the Convergence and Union coalition, which looks set to win regional elections in the autumn – had been pushing for an even stricter ban.

After Lleida's announcement, Spain's senate called on the government to prevent women from wearing burqas and niqabs anywhere in public. The motion was phrased to avoid the ban applying to the tens of thousands of Christian nazarenos who don hooded robes and parade through Spanish cities every Easter.

The socialist government of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, has responded by indicating that it will legislate against the burqa in a religious freedom law. 2/7/2010

Zapatero meets Blair

The current Spanish prime-minister and a former British prime-minister meet and issue a joint statement declaring their hope that the partial lifting of the blockade on Gaza will help promote dialogue aimed at promoting peace in the Middle East. 1/7/2010

history

The Spanish transition from a British perspective

BY DAME DENISE HOLT

As Foreign Office Research Analyst for Iberia from 1970-1983 I had a front row seat for one of the most absorbing periods of modern Spanish history. How did British diplomats interpret and report the transition to democracy as events unfolded?

Transition was, of course expected – but with some trepidation. Our Ambassador, Sir John Russell described the December 1973 assassination of Admiral Carrero Blanco, Franco's Prime Minister as 'proof that long compression finally produces explosion'. 'For 35 years', he said, 'Franco had 'gagged, blinkered and gelded his country'. This episode had 'put paid to any early dreams of a political dawn'. Russell said that this 'first important political murder of any sort since the Civil War made people realise that even Franco may not be immortal: and wonder, what then? Will the Prince be able to hold things together? What will the Army do? How strong are the Communists? Shall we have another Civil War?'



Sir John Russell

Sir John Russell had great faith in Prince Juan Carlos. At a meeting in May 1974, the Prince had spoken of the 'difficulty of at the same time opening things up and maintaining stability' which he saw as 'his problem in years to come'. In August, Russell reported, with a confidence not widely shared in Whitehall, that 'Franco is to all intents and purposes gone and any day now Prince Juan Carlos will be finally taking over. The Prince holds genuine liberal views which he hopes, I know, to put into effect as soon as his position is strong enough for him to do so'.

So, Spain entered 1975 with an uncertain international backdrop (including considerable turbulence in other Southern European countries), Franco's chosen iron man dead, and no clear road map to follow through Franco's last months. The darkest moments came not long before Franco's death, when, on 27 September 1975 five terrorists were executed by firing squad. Charles Wiggin, our new Ambassador, himself half Spanish, thought 'the country seemed set on an indefinite course of violence and counter-violence, which rattled the man in the street'. Most European Ambassadors (including Wiggin) were summoned home for consultations. Inside Spain, reactions were mixed, but 'the majority were not

prepared to accept the thought that foreign disapproval might have been aroused by the manner of the trials, or that the target was the regime, rather than Spain'.

In the event, the storm died down; the Ambassadors returned and there were no more executions. The actual moment of transition was peaceful and Europe sought to play a helpful part. I had forgotten that the British (Labour) Government was represented at General Franco's funeral by a Senior Minister, the Lord Privy Seal – a decision which cost the then Foreign Secretary, Jim Callaghan dear in Labour party and trade union circles. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh attended the thanksgiving Mass to celebrate the King's accession. This was an important symbolic gesture for the UK.

Writing in January 2006, Charles Wiggin said: 'there are grounds for cautious optimism. ... The King's speech on his accession... pointed in the right direction'. London was less optimistic. The Head of Southern European Department was 'still uncertain how far the favourable signs offset the more lurid possibilities of disaster'. He added: 'We must wish the King and his Government luck as well as skill and judgement ... not least because it is unlikely to prove possible in domestic or European terms for us to move faster than the pace of reform in Spain itself makes possible'. All the more surprising, then, that Foreign Secretary Jim Callaghan told Cabinet in February 1976 that: 'We must not expect miracles overnight, but if the programme went forward as planned there was

a real possibility that in about 16 months' time Spain might have something approaching a respectable democratic structure'.

In fact, the papers show a real concern that Spain would push too hard in the EEC or NATO; and/or that the Arias' government's reform package would offer too little. Jim Callaghan told Foreign Minister Arellza that 'events of the last 40



Charles Wiggin



Jardin

years had gone very deep. Public opinion would lag behind in its attitude to Spain whatever changes took place. ... There would be continuing hostility, doubt and suspicion of the Spanish Government. Excessive expectations would only lead to disappointment'. He added that 'he looked forward to the day when he could speak to the British public of a Spain which enjoyed universal suffrage, free parties, organ-

ised trade unions, and the right of the people to change their own government’.

The first real clue to the King’s determination to press ahead with reforms was the appointment of Adolfo Suárez González as Prime Minister in 1976. Despite negative media in Spain, I predicted ‘that Sr Suárez will endeavour to pursue the programme of political reform ... and if possible speed it up’. And indeed, in his Annual Review for 1976, Charles Wigg’s assessment was that, ‘by the end of the year Suárez had removed all doubts about his will and ability’ to deliver reforms. Much had been achieved, especially ‘getting Franco’s Cortes to agree to their own abolition and replacement by a real Parliament to be elected by universal suffrage’. Wigg thought that ‘1976 was the King’s year ... (He) had grown markedly in stature and reputation’. Meanwhile, ‘our own political relations with Spain remain sensitive and somewhat uneasy, partly for traditional Gibraltar reasons but essentially for broader ideological ones’. British Ministers were not minded to give Spain the benefit of the doubt, as did the French, German and US Governments. For example, the Foreign Secretary did not accept a recommendation in November 1976, following the Cortes’ vote on parliamentary reform, that the time had come when HMG’s attitude of scepticism could be relaxed.

Things improved in 1977, when Spain became the 20th member of the Council of Europe, and signed the European Convention on Human Rights. Political parties were free to operate; the press was uncensored; trades unions were accepted. In July 1977 the Defence and Overseas Policy Committee felt able to agree that ‘the time has ... come when bilateral visits between Ministers are possible...(adding) it may be possible to contemplate an exchange of State Visits before long’. And when, in 1977, Sr Suárez formally applied for full membership of the EEC, Foreign Secretary David Owen personally amended the draft to say that he ‘warmly welcomed’ the application.

Why was the British Government so cautious? I believe the visceral anti-Francoism that persisted in Labour party and Trade Union circles made it difficult for the Government to be positively supportive to the reform process so long as the outcome was uncertain. Labour Ministers had been young men in the 1930s, and their attachment was to Republican Spain. I think they literally couldn’t believe what was happening when Spain slid peacefully, out of dictatorship and into democracy under the grandson of Alfonso XIII. And – who knows – they may have had a point: Antony Acland, our new Ambassador, noted in late 1977 that ‘vestiges of the old regime remained’ – especially in the machinery of government.



Antony Acland

Happily, the Constituent Assembly completed its work in peace. A despatch by the Charge d’Affaires, Alan Urwick, records that the new Constitution came into effect on 29 December 1978: ‘a document of reconciliation, put together

in a spirit of consensus which has brought together almost all shades of political opinion in a common purpose for the first time since the Civil War ...’. Urwick recognises that this meant some issues had been ducked, but concludes that ‘the Constitution ... has the inestimable advantage of starting its life with overwhelming parliamentary and national support. Its chances of survival must therefore be rated as good’.



Fdo el Santo-Montesquiza

Ambassador Antony Acland, was more cautious. The referendum which approved the Constitution had been ‘respectable, but less good than the Government had above hoped for’. Although 87% of voters were in favour, turnout was only 68%, giving it the support of only 60% of the electorate. Submitting these papers to the Foreign Secretary, Ewen Fergusson, then Director for Europe, said: ‘in terms of direct political implications for the UK ... the reorientation of Spain is of comparable importance to the reorientation of China; and indeed the points at which our interests touch are far greater in number’. But the verdict on ‘democracy in Spain’ remained ‘not proven’: ‘What we have seen in the last couple of years ... has been the successful setting up of new structures, but not the carrying through of new policies ... the icing of democracy may be there, but the Spaniards have yet to cook the cake’.

Sir A Acland said: ‘The Government which emerges from the election on 1 March 1979 will finally bring to an end the period of political transition following Franco’s death’. They certainly marked a change of mood. The investiture of Suárez’s government, on 2 April 1979, was the occasion of a bitter argument with all the opposition parties, who ‘treated Suarez’ speech with ostentatious and often noisy contempt’. The Ambassador reported that, ‘Suárez’ investiture was a good deal less than an apotheosis’. The fact was that the consensus of those early years of the transition were a means to an end, not an end in itself. Antony Acland said ‘consensus is already giving way to the more natural politics of the two party system, while the increased representation of nationalist parties will mean that regional interests are likely to be given greater prominence’.



[This is an abridged version of the talk given by our Chairman, Dame Denise Holt, as an introduction to the exhibition “Thirty Years of the Spanish Constitution” at the Instituto Cervantes on 16 June 2010]

scholarship

Raquel Perez Rubio

A PHD student describes her 'Life-altering experience' sponsored by the Anglo-Spanish Society and Ferrovial

It is said that the new generations will be the future of tomorrow. I strongly believe now that my daily work in the laboratory will contribute as a small grain of sand to change the biomedical direction in future generations. I started my PhD with a vision: To achieve what I aimed for, to learn from my superiors and fellow PhD students and be able to help out humanity.



I was born in a small city called Burgos in the north of Spain. Since I was in school my dream has been to be able to do a PhD in genetics one day, in molecular biology, related with human disease. Being in London, studying my PhD at University

College London (UCL), at the Institute for Women's Health is an honour, a privilege, a big sacrifice and a dream, a dream come true. I have been travelling and studying in many different cities and other countries until I arrived where I am now. I look back, and I can just understand that all the effort that my parents and I have put in on my education has been worth it. My parents were very happy when I got the Anglo-Spanish Society award. They travelled to London to accompany me to the ceremony at the Spanish Embassy in May 2009. I never saw them so proud of me; they were feeling that the result of their effort in my studies and the direction my studies have taken in order to serve society.

I started my PhD at the end of 2008, at the Institute for Women's Health in a prestigious research group, directed by Dr. Ian Jacobs and Dr. Simon Gayther. I am working on genetic susceptibility on ovarian cancer. Epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC) is the 7th most common cause of cancer by which death in women occurs worldwide. The disease has a very poor survival rate, with most women detected at a late stage of the disease, when only 30% of women survive for 5 years after diagnosis. The aim of my PhD is to identify genetic changes that are associated with an increased risk of developing ovarian cancer. The current project follows up on a large international collaborative study including studies from the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium (OCAC), established in the United Kingdom on 2005.

The Anglo-Spanish Society grant has given me the opportunity to know and discover the reality of research in my research area in my own country. The main purpose that encouraged me to apply for the Scholarship was to create bilateral relationships between research groups working on ovarian cancer in the UK and Spain.

I prepared my first abstract for an international conference, and my first poster with some of my PhD results. The results

we got were focused on an analysis of different sets of data in Chromosome 6. This chromosome has been implicated in EOC due to common regions of loss of heterozygosity. A variety of additional data sets were used to prioritise further analysis of candidate genes. The three sets of data used were: Microcell-mediated chromosome transfer (MMCT), expression array analysis, and a genome wide association study (GWAS) for EOC. Using different approaches, we identified 5 potential candidate genes close to 7 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) on chromosome 6 with $P < 10^{-5}$. Two of the candidate genes have been implicated in other cancers as well. The results were very significant and I am currently following different pathways in order to evaluate their importance and possible understanding of the disease.

The poster preparation and the work carried out were really intense. I enjoyed the research very much and all that I have learnt and achieved for this work. A conference I attended in Madrid was fantastic. I had the chance to meet and talk with very significant scientists such as Dr. Anne-Lise Børresen Dale, President of the European Association for Cancer Research, Dr. Chris Sanger, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, Dr. Nuria Malats from the CNIO, Dr. Jill P. Mesirov from Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard in USA and so many others.

I was going back to my own country after so many years and discovering it from a different angle, from the research point of view. It was wonderful to attend significant and interesting talks during the three days of the conference, share scientific discussions with some of the most significant researchers from all over the world related with cancer disease. And it was really great to be able to present and explain some of my results to many different people who attended the meeting.

I really felt that I could be in any other part of the world with scientists of many different countries working in a first level research. It was an incredible experience for me with all these familiar feelings in my own country. Scientists from CNIO are working on similar projects on breast cancer and are part of a large collaborative study with our group at UCL, funded by an EU grant, combining data on breast, prostate and ovarian cancer.

The first visit was followed up with a second one to the south of Spain, in order to discover the research situation in the Andalucía. In November, I visited Málaga at the Hospital Clínico Universitario Virgen de la Victoria, I also visited the Medical Oncology section at the Hospital Provincial in Córdoba, where I met and spoke with different oncology doctors. The experience was very intense and positive as I got a clear idea of the oncology research carried on in the region, that I hope will be productive in future.

The award allows me to establish and maintain collaborative links between our research group in the UK and groups working on similar projects in Spain. I just want to say thank you very much to the Anglo-Spanish Society and Ferrovial Group for giving me this great opportunity.

Thank you very much.

classical music

The second annual classical concert



In the same week that the Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption in southern Iceland released its now infamous cloud of ash into the skies, writes Emily Cooper, Anglo-Spanish Society members who weren't stranded across Europe like my husband were lucky enough to see eleven explosive talents take to the stage in South Kensington.

This year's Classical Concert, which attracted young musicians from the Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Royal College of Music and Barcelona's Academia Marshall, took place in the beautifully intimate surrounds of the Brompton Oratory's St Wilfrid's Hall. The audience, which included both our chairman Dame Denise Holt and our President the Spanish Ambassador, was treated to a diverse programme of celebrated Spanish composers including Falla, Albeniz and Sarasate as well as Bottesini, Monti and Poulenc.



Setting a precedent for the rest of the evening, award-winning Guildhall pianist Ricard Rovirosa – who made a welcome return after his performance last year – opened the night with a wonderfully charismatic rendition of Falla's *Fantasia Baetica*. Other Guildhall students to return for the society's concert were Barcelona-born duo Belen Barnaus Mendez and Anna Cardona Esteve. Belen who was clearly born for the stage, gave a thrilling rendition of songs by

Fernando Obradors including *Al Amor*, *La Mi Sola* and *El Vito* accompanied by her highly accomplished pianist Anna.

Among those making their debut for the society was pianist Xoan Elias Castineira Varela who delighted with his performance of *El Albacin* by Isaac Albeniz and Nicole Marie Crespo O'Donoghue who at the tender age of 18 is certainly a precious talent to watch. The petite Royal Academy of Music violinist instantly won over the audience with her haunting performance of Sarasate's *Gipsy Airs* and her show-stopping *Czrdas* by Monti was the perfect climactic ending to the evening.

The sweetest of notes were conjured out of the double bass by Damian Rubido Gonzalez who is completing a Masters at the Royal College of Music and has played with the National

Orchestra of Spain and the London Philharmonic. His *Fantasia on Lucia di Lammermoor* was for me a highlight of the evening. Not only was it a pleasure and privilege to watch these young musicians but it was a delight for the audience to be able to meet them in the interval and talk over a glass of wine. We were also treated to a delicious spread of cheeses provided by Lady Lindsay.

The musicians "were brilliant, and everyone present, including His Excellency the Spanish Ambassador, found the performance absolutely uplifting," comments our Chairman Dame Denise Holt. "At the brink of what will undoubtedly be enormously successful careers, the musicians gave their time and their talent to perform specially for us on a miserably cold Friday evening."

We hope that many more members will join us for next year's classical concert, it is a true highlight of the Society's social calendar.

tapestry... *New Armada Paintings*

for the Prince's Chamber, Palace of Westminster

BY SANDRA COOMBS

We are fortunate to have an official guide to the Palace of Westminster on our Executive Council in Paul Pickering. Many of us have enjoyed past visits and hopefully we may be able to arrange another visit sometime in the New Year that will also include a chance to see Anthony Oakshett's 15Ft. x 12Ft. paintings inspired by the engraver John Pine's 1739 published copies of the famous 10 Armada Tapestries that hung in the House of Lords from 1616 until 1834, when a wrongly stoked furnace caused the fire that destroyed the old Palace of Westminster.

John Pine's engravings can be seen in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Their scale is approximately 1Ft. 1inch. The original tapestries were 19 and 29 feet long and 15 feet from top to bottom. One of the most beautiful was one that shows Sir Francis Drake's *Revenge* capturing Don Pedro de Valdes's *Rosario*. This shows most clearly the Armada's crescent formation, and the difference between the high-castled Spanish galleons and galleasses. Around the borders were embroidered the commanders of the English fleet. The Oakshett paintings on canvas are to be hung in 2010 in the Prince's Chamber. The curator is Malcolm Hay.

The tapestries were originally commissioned by Lord Howard of Effingham and were designed by the Dutchman Henrik Corneliszoom Vroom from Harlem and Francois Spierincx from Delft who did the weaving. In 1616 the aging Lord Howard Effingham was in financial difficulties and was forced to sell them to King James I, who had them hung in the House of Lords.

in conversation

Tertulia at the Cervantes Institute

Spain's image in the British media

BY JONATHAN SMITH

Relations between our two countries have never been closer, healthier or built on so many levels, so could Spain really have an image problem in the UK? The idea seems virtually unthinkable to many of us, but the question merits exploration and an answer.

A panel of journalists from Britain and Spain addressed the issue as the Instituto Cervantes London launched its spring-summer culture programme with a lively debate in front of a pleasingly packed house.

With proceedings moderated by a true Anglo-Spaniard, the Anglo-Spanish Society's vice-chairman Jimmy Burns, we were assured of a fair and friendly discussion.

Anna Bosch, London correspondent for RTVE, made the point that Britain's newspapers do at least mention Spain on a regular basis, unlike the press she was used to reading on her previous posting in New York.

This coverage cannot always be positive, as even Spain's best friends would admit. The country has of course been hit particularly hard by the global recession, and there has been no shortage of stories reflecting this.

That is not to say, though, that there is any gloating by what we used to call Fleet Street. Both your correspondent and Peter Preston, the former Guardian editor and now leading media commentator, defended British press coverage of Spain as being generally fair.

It is worth pointing out as well that the term 'PIGS' – referring to Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain as eurozone countries in economic strife – was in fact coined by the financial markets, not by the papers. We just reported the news.

Another perception is that coverage of Spain is dominated by stereotypes, and this perhaps bears closer scrutiny than claims of bias, or an 'Anglo-Saxon conspiracy' as some of the wilder allegations would have you believe.

Even in the best of Britain's press, the stereotypes do still persist, even if they no longer dominate coverage in the

And yet it could be much worse. As Peter Preston pointed out, if Spain's image in the British media was like Italy's, Spaniards really would have something to complain about.

way they used to. But Spaniards must take into account that bullfighting is interesting to our readers because it is more or less unique to Spain – it is something out of the ordinary to us, and thus to some the very definition of news.

Extensive coverage of another Spanish cultural icon, flamenco, reflects the extraordinary interest it holds among Britons. It's no coincidence that the constant stories about the famous El Bulli restaurant come at a time of growing British interest in all things foodie.

And as both Anna Bosch and El País correspondent Walter Oppenheimer agreed, while the Spanish love to accept foreigners' praise, some can be a little over-sensitive to the negative.

If Spain wants the British press to recognise successes such as El Bulli, it has to be prepared to accept fair criticism too, whether this relates to the youth unemployment problem or the latest Premier League failure by Rafa Benitez's Liverpool side.

In fairness, the British media probably should make more effort to cover the Spain that lies beyond the stereotypes, notwithstanding the excellent work of correspondents such as The Guardian's Giles Tremlett and Graham Keeley of The Times.

Unfortunately, this is no easy task at a time when editorial staffs have suffered major cutbacks and newspapers are forced to simultaneously confront economic crisis and the digital revolution.

As most journalists will tell you, public relations is the other side of our professional coin, and this is where Spain can help itself. This was not the first time I had heard Spanish friends tell me that most Spanish businesses simply don't promote themselves well enough.

One example is Spain's success with renewable energy: most British journalists would know little or nothing about this because the message isn't being delivered, so apart from the odd article it doesn't get a mention.

And yet it could be much worse. As Peter Preston pointed out, if Spain's image in the British media was like Italy's, Spaniards really would have something to complain about.

Discussions continued well into the evening as both speakers and audience enjoyed tapas from Alegría and the usual excellent Wines from Spain.

With the help of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, and the additional support from the Anglo-Spanish Society, several of whose members were present, the evening was such a success that many guests expressed a desire for a repeat. The journalists will start thinking about the second edition after a suitable break.

Jonathan Smith is a news sub-editor at The Sun and director of Wordsmiths España, which runs the press office at the Instituto Cervantes London.

music review

Intense passion and the dream of freedom

Young classical guitarist Maria Camahort explores the history of the Coplas ...



I am a member of a fresh and vibrant ensemble, Farsa Monea, that brings new life to traditional and folk music of Spain and Latin America. We try to present our music with honesty, hoping to capture the stories that are told in each song. We focus particularly on a form of traditional Spanish music called Coplas. Outside of Spain this form of music is not generally known, but within Spain it carries a great significance. The emotive songs reflect the passion and dreams of the Spanish people after the Spanish Civil War, during the dictatorship.

Each copla is a small universe of circumstances, feelings, atmospheres. Each time we are told a different story through a clear narration which normally develops in two parts with a chorus in between and at the end, after the second narrative section. The main character is often a woman who endures tragic love, or experiences a beautiful but impossible love, and in any case deep, intense passion. Well-known titles include Ojos Verdes, Tatuaje, Lagrimas Negras and La Farsa Monea.

In the chorus the narrative rhythm stops to present a self-reflection or to describe the character's general situation. There are often shifts between first and third person in the lyrics which brings texture into the narrative process and enriches in terms of the main character's emotional possibilities. These stories were an expression of imagination and freedom for Spaniards in the repressed, post war dictatorship. The copla was like giving life to the people's wish of having even just the option to feel freely. Coplas are songs with enormous evocative power. That has much to do with the strong relationship between words and music; the music is felt as the revelation of the character's emotional state.

There is a noticeable theatrical element to the genre. In fact, the origin of the coplas goes back to the "tonadilla escénica", a short metric theatrical composition accompanied with music at the end, or in the intervals of, major works in the eighteenth century. Those pieces gained independence through the years and acquired a more folkloric, Andalusian character.

They even started to be heard away from the theatres and into cafes and other venues, often within "varietès" shows, where we find the "cuplé": another stage which precedes the coplas creation.

In the first half of the twentieth century singers such as Concha Piquer defined the genre, combining its rich history with a dramatisation of Andalusian folklore. Like flamenco, copla has its roots in the South of Spain and shares an Arabic influence recognisable in rhythms, sonorities and so on, but at the same time they are different. A wider range of people could identify themselves with the coplas, thanks probably to the clear structure and development of the stories as well as a weaker racial factor than in flamenco, the Spanish Gypsy's genre. Indeed as the phenomena started to grow, the copla singers weren't anymore exclusively from Andalucía as populations all over Spain were moved by the same songs during the Civil War. The singers were admired by the people but often censored by the regime who forced some coplas composers as well as many other artists and intellectuals into exile.

About Farsa Monea

The ensemble's singer is Madrid-born Violeta Garcia who learned to sing Coplas from her mother who learned from her own mother and so on. Also a talented classical violinist who still regularly plays with "Barcelona Sègle XXI" orchestra, Violeta is completing a Masters degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Percussionist Jon Desbruslais began drum lessons at the age of ten and has gone on to study classical percussion, attending masterclasses with world renowned artists such as Joshua Redman, Jon Patitucci, Bobo Stenson, and Danilo Perez to name a few. He spent six months in Chile studying Latin-American rhythms with Yamaha representative Camilo Torres and plays in a variety of ensembles in different genres from latin and folk to jazz and pop. Maria, meanwhile, was born in Valencia and completed her degree at the Escola Superior de Musica de Catalunya before taking on a Masters course at Guildhall. As well as Farsa Monea, she performs with the chamber music ensemble the Galiiu Quartet



EVENT NEWS: *This October the Anglo-Spanish Society is proud to present an evening with Farsa Monea. Don't miss this truly unique opportunity to hear their beautiful rendition of these traditional Spanish songs as they keep the Copla tradition alive. Book early to avoid disappointment. Information will be on the website www.anglospanishsociety.org*

teatro

Madness in Valencia by *Lope de Vega*

BY TOM KEARNS

Opportunities to see Drama from the Spanish Golden Age performed in London are very rare and picking up a flier advertising this performance did much to take my mind away from the snow and freezing temperatures we have recently experienced in London.. Lorca has been performed in the



National and Old Vic Theatres in the last few years, but to my recollection comedia works are rare treats in this part of the world.

Lope has been described in survey course of Spanish literature and

drama as one of the greatest geniuses the dramatic world has known. His output was prolific. Equally he had an eventful life, which few of us could ever hope to match. He was born in Madrid in 1562 and attended the Jesuit Theatine college there. In what was to be the first of many such adventures, it is said he was caught in an amorous escapade there. His studies continued in the University of Alcalá de Henares, acquiring knowledge of literature, classical particularly, which he put full use later on as a successful playwright. Details of his life are filled with love affairs and – sometimes, exile by affronted fathers and husbands. It was during a period of exile in Valencia that he wrote this particular play. He also took part in the ill-fated Spanish Armada and in 1614 took Holy Orders, following some sort of religious crisis. Along the way he picked up honorary doctorates in theology and the Cross of the Order of St John of Jerusalem from Pope Urban VIII. His later life however was filled with plenty of sorrows. His death in 1635 saw high and low society joining in to give him a good send off, secure in the knowledge that he had done more than many to help give Spain a truly national drama comparable to Elizabethan England.

This particular production was hugely enjoyable, with comedy and an underlying seriousness. The venue was small and intimate with lots of interaction between audience and cast. Time Out made the point that the serious aspect of this play was understated in favour of the comedy, but I would have said there was comedy and seriousness in equal measure. The set - as befits attempts to depict places of treatment for the so-called insane, was suitably bare and grim. Heavy wooden beams became cages, doors or passageways as the dramatic action demanded. The theme of people not being what they seem just about sums up the kernel of



the play. Feigning madness to avoid an arranged marriage Efila meets and falls in love with Floriano, who is himself on the run for an apparent murder, which turns out to be a case of mistaken identity. These roles were performed excellently by Kathryn Beaumont and William Belchambers respectively. However the top actor in the play for me was Laurence Fuller playing the role of Pisano, a kind of madhouse warden who exhibited the unpredictable cruelty and unconscious irony which seem to be at the heart of the play. He had a few very funny asides to the audience, telling us someone was “raving mad” when quite obviously the person was not, it being more to do with being in love. The dramatic action intensified towards the end with everyone seemingly being “matched up” happily after the mistaken identities have been revealed. Love as a form of dangerous madness is at the heart of this particular reading of the play. But the cruelty of incarceration in dreadful surroundings is not far from the surface.

Madness in Valencia by *Lope de Vega*

Performed by *Black and White Rainbow* at *Trafalgar 2 Studios, London*.

for your diary

Tapas lunch at Ibérica Food and Culture

Join Anglo-Spanish Society members for an authentic Spanish lunch at Ibérica restaurant in the heart of central London. The set tapas menu will include a delicious selection of cold and hot tapas and dessert.

Date and Time: Saturday 11 September, 1pm

Venue: Ibérica (195 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PS)

Lunch: £30 per person (includes full tapas menu and ½ bottle of wine person)

Pre-booking essential – please send enclosed booking form to the A-SS Events Secretary by Tuesday 7 September.

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Anglo-Spanish Society

A note convening the meeting will be sent in due course.

Date and Time: Tuesday 19 October, 6.30pm

Anglo-Spanish Society Annual Christmas Party

Join us for our annual Christmas Party in the warm surrounds of Canning House.

More information will be available in the September edition of the QR

An Evening of Coplas Music and Tapas

October 2010

More information will be available in the September edition of the QR.

awards

The Anglo-Spanish Society Grants Awards Ceremony

The Spanish Embassy 24 May 2010

This was the third year that the Society had met at the Embassy to award grants to students from Spain and Britain to enable them to carry out further studies and research into their chosen specialist fields.

Each year the number and quality of the applicants has increased, and the chairman of our selection panel, Albert Jones, has had a more demanding job in sifting through them and choosing winners. The areas of study range through the arts, sciences and humanities, and the Sponsors of these awards can see how well their grants are being used. We are happy that the Society is able to bring together these two groups to their mutual benefit, and that of the Anglo-Spanish community at large. Members can read about the experiences of the becarios in future issues of the Quarterly Review (as this issue contains reports from the 2009 recipients).



Migel Lautariannon Isabelle receiving their awards

Representatives of the Sponsoring bodies were at the Embassy to present the awards to the becarios.

Óscar Martín García, Politics/Sociology
Cultural Diplomacy 1973-82.
His grant was provided by Cuatrecasas

Óscar graduated in Humanities at the University of Castilla-La Mancha in 1901 and gained his doctorate in Contemporary History there in 2006. He has published several articles and collaborated on a number of books. Periods of research in overseas universities include two years (2007-9) at the Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies, LSE. To complete his current research into cultural diplomacy between Britain and Spain he requires funding for a further stay in London to consult archives including the BBC, Foreign Office and Kew.

Miguel Fernández González Zalba, Physics
Nanotechnology
Grant from O2

Miguel Graduated in Physics at Zaragoza in 2008 and since

then has been studying for his PhD at Cambridge University at the Cavendish Laboratory. Miguel's research is at the cutting edge of the miniaturization of integrated circuits and is a classic case of co-operation between Spain, the Nanoscience Institute of Aragon, and the UK Microelectronics Group.

Isabel Parés Moreno, Medicine
Neurology
Grant from Abbey

Isabel Graduated in Medicine at Barcelona (UAB) in 2004. In 2009, at the Vall d'Hebron Hospital, Barcelona, she completed her specialist training in neurology, during which she established joint research projects with the Institute of Neurology in London's Queen Square. With the support of the Department of Neurology in Barcelona, Isabel has now been offered use of the Queen Square Institute's resources to complete her research into movement dystonia. No funding is attached to this stage of her research and it is for this reason that she has applied for a scholarship.



Rhiannon McGlade, Literature
20th Century Catalan Satire
Grant from Ferrovial

In 2007, Rhiannon graduated, 1st Class, at Sheffield University in Hispanic Studies with Catalan Philology, having spent her fourth year, 2006-7 in Barcelona (UAB). In 2008 she completed her MA in International Studies with Diplomacy at Birmingham University where she is now pursuing her PhD on the evolution of the satirical press in 20th century Catalonia.

Laura Fernández González,
History/Architecture
Philip II: Empire and Imperial Display
Grant from BBVA

Laura graduated in the History of Art at the University of Seville in 2002. After four years working in the planning and architecture department of Jerez council she resumed her academic career at Edinburgh University and now expects to complete her PhD within the next year. Her study of the architecture produced in the Iberian peninsula under Philip's rule is particularly concerned with the European context including British influences.



An English environmentalist shares his experience of living and working in Spain

BY CARLOS OPPE

I came to work in Madrid in 1988, at the tail end of the Movida, the social movement that evolved during the transition from the Franco era to democracy. Madrid was a very different place to live in then and during these 22 years much has changed. This is probably the most striking aspect about Spain and its people, the ability to adapt to changes and move fast. I find the car a useful indicator of change. I remember when I first came to Madrid, a taxi ride was a very stressful experience as the driver

would never anticipate a red light. The taxi would accelerate, in bursts, until a few metres from the white line and then suddenly break. No longer so. The driving norms have improved beyond recognition and one only has to look at the road fatality statistics which demonstrate a society that changes: 9.344 deaths in 1989 compared with 2.668 deaths in 2009.

So why did I come to live in Madrid? Well the 80's in the UK was not an inspiring decade and when I received an offer to join a Spanish marketing company, I jumped at the opportunity. Above all else the life style in Madrid was very attractive. Work was both interesting and above all fun, with the various morning coffee breaks, long lunches and dealing with clients was more of a social event than anything else. But what I really appreciated was the sense of being in a country that had vast open spaces and a biodiversity unique to Western Europe.

Over 80% of plants found in Europe thrive here as well as 50% of animal species, including unique specimens such as the Spanish Lynx and the Imperial Eagle. Of the 226 species considered of high interest by the EU, 54% are to be found in Spain. Aided by considerable variety in climate zones and a late entry into the industrial age, the biodiversity is by far the most interesting in Western Europe.

I began my working life dedicated to environmental issues but the 70's in the UK were early days in that sector and it was difficult making a living. So I changed to marketing and was head hunted for a job in Madrid, but after a few years working in a multinational I decided to join a small environmental consultancy.

So as an Englishman living in Spain in the field of the environment, how do I perceive the changes that have taken place since I came here? Those 30 kilometres of motorway outside Madrid have now developed into a massive motorway net-

work with more motorway miles than any other EU country. Much has been written about the advances made here, much is true but, as always, there are two sides to a story.

Take the much discussed construction industry. My environmental consultancy foresaw the impact this would have on Spain, where quick money ignored planning procedures and turned many areas into sterile concrete wildernesses.

At the same time there have been great advances made in wind generation, solar farms and the fast speed train. Wind farms have sprung up everywhere thanks to lax enforcement

of environmental impact assessments. However remarkable figures were achieved this year when on 4th May the wind turbines generated 278.507 MWh which represents 55% of the total electrical energy demand that day. Remember the EU target is 20% energy produced by renewable sources by 2020!



The speed at which solar power has taken root in Spain is impressive. In 2008 a record of 2GW were installed and by the end of 2009 it was 3GW, which covers 2.8% of electricity demand in 2009. However the reason for this boom was the generous grants offered by the government which turned solar farms into financial products with returns of up to 12% a year, nothing to do with environmental concerns or objectives. In fact the market collapsed this year once the government withdrew its subsidy and no new farms are being built.

The fast speed train network was used by Obama as an example of environmental good practice and a transport policy to learn from. The AVE is a wonderful achievement, functions to perfection, comfortable and fast. Yet it follows the pattern of the way things are done here. The first track was between Madrid and Seville, the home of Spain's then Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. The next line was Madrid to Valladolid, the home of the then prime Minister José María Aznar. Finally the most logical connection was completed, the line between Barcelona and Madrid but the strategic connection between Spain and France, as well as Spain and Portugal, are still being debated!

All these examples demonstrate what it is like living in Spain. Great achievements in very short space of time but scratch the surface and strange patterns emerge and vested interests appear; planning laws ignored, green incentives driven by capital, strategic plans left out of the agenda, economy fuelled by fast money, etc. But given all this Spain is a wonderful place to live in, with the most interesting biodiversity in Europe and as an environmentalist full of opportunities!

Carlos Oppe is Partner of Iniciativas Ambientales SL and President of the NGO "Global Action Plan Spain" – info@programagap.org

book review

Scunthorpe hasta la muerte

Inigo Gurruchaga

BY DAVID SHARROCK

Football, Inigo Gurruchaga tells us in his journey across some of this country's lesser known soccer grounds on the trail of a Basque journeyman midfielder, is a game which commences at three o'clock in the afternoon on an English Saturday.

Gurruchaga is a Galactico, as Real Madrid's star chasing president Florentino Perez would say, in his own right: veteran war correspondent, distinguished father of the house among Spain's London correspondents and a man who has written with elegance and flair on soccer for decades at international level.

So what on earth possessed him to turn his famous hawk-eye for the telling detail on a subject as esoteric as the ups and downs of a relatively obscure northern football club eternally caught in an existential struggle for survival?

Football, as the current World Cup in South Africa reminds us, is a global phenomenon generating billions of dollars in revenue and unquantifiable emotion. In Spain, by a generous distance, the biggest selling daily newspaper is devoted to the game. The British press follows suit, devoting more and more space and resources to covering a relatively small group of clubs and players in minute detail.

Gurruchaga has set out in the opposite direction, a counter-intuitive decision to go in search of the roots of football. His conceit is to insinuate himself into the professional career of Alex Calvo-García during his days of British sherry and roses at Scunthorpe.

Becoming Boswell, he pretends to chronicle the life and times of the footballing son of a Basque metal-worker who spent years in Franco's prisons for his communist activities. But of course there is much more going on.

Never one to shirk a difficult task, the scope of Gurruchaga's challenge is made immediately apparent in the opening words of the prologue. Scunthorpe is a word which does not fit easily into a Spanish mouth. Truly, readers of this book will be immediately identified – and put themselves at risk of mockery from onlookers – by the strange movements of their lips as they follow the author's precise instructions on how to pronounce this strange place-name.

Later he returns to the subject when he explores the origins of the name and muses on the reason why a four-letter word hidden within the name Scunthorpe is the most offensive curse in the English language, when the Spanish use it as a punctuation mark in their conversation. He puts it down to our misogyny: he may be right but I prefer to believe it's the failure of our secondary schools to sufficiently acquaint our children with the works of Chaucer.

At one stage in this journey Paul the fan tells the author that

supporting Scunthorpe' is like smoking; every year you want to give it up but you never do'. We journey together across a wintry landscape punctuated with reminders of a heroic past. Matthew Arnold and the Methodists, Joan Plowright, British cinema noir, heavy industry and Winston Churchill's most famous speech, where he tells the United Kingdom's subjects at their hour of greatest peril that "we will never surrender" all have walk-on roles.

The tone is reminiscent of the absurdity cultivated by that most English of novelists Magnus Mills but on occasion it becomes as dark as the vision of Hieronymus Bosch during the off-field descriptions of Scunthorpe's scrappier matches.

Driving to Swansea to watch a game he spots a car racing in the other direction, football scarves flapping from the windows, and asks himself: "Who are they?" Jan Molby, the Danish striker and coach doesn't know either but he tells the author, 'In what other country are there 92 professional clubs with fans prepared to die for their club? This is the only place in the world.'

On the return journey from Wales, as losers to Swansea, Gurruchaga lugubriously observes that the advertisements for erectile dysfunction set at eye-level in the motorway service station urinals are as inescapable as when the fans set out from home in the same darkness which now surrounds them.

The description of Scunthorpe's victory at Wembley and Garsie's goal is among the finest long pieces of sports writing I have read. When the national anthem is played before the match Gurruchaga says that his subject does not join in with the singing, 'but he knows that football is a game which begins at three in the afternoon on an English Saturday'.

Minutes later, when he scores the goal which propels Scunthorpe to the Third Division Garsie celebrates by taking off his club jersey to reveal a t-shirt emblazoned with the Ikurrina.

Readers of this book may ultimately fail to pronounce 'Scunthorpe' but they will be richly entertained in the effort.

Scunthorpe hasta la muerte by Inigo Gurruchaga (Saga) ISBN: 978-84-937704-0-2 166 pages (19.5 euros)

David Sharrock is a former Madrid correspondent of *The Times*



La cocina de mabel

White Bean Salad or Ensalada De Alubias

(Inspiration : Zarauz, Basque Country)

BY ISABEL MARAÑÓN & MARIÁ-BELÉN PARKER

Time of year: Summer

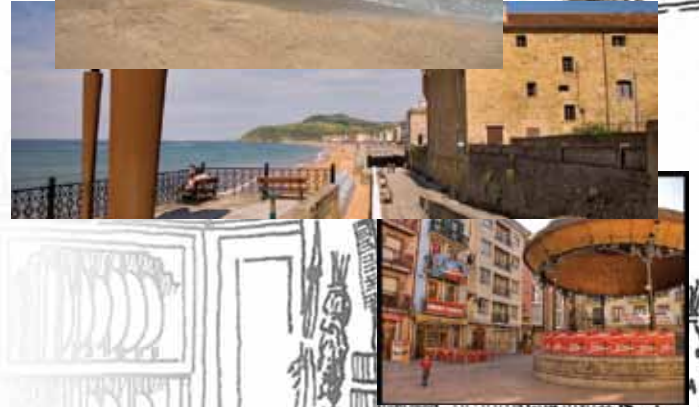
Open a tin of El Artesano Alubias or white beans, drain them with abundant water and dry well. Cut the tomato into chunks. Halve, core and deseed the peppers, then chop into 1cm dice. Trim and very thinly slice the onions. Cut the eggs into relatively thin slices.

Mix in a bowl the alubias or white beans with all the other ingredients. Add and toss salt, olive oil and vinegar. Serve straightaway.

P.D: You may also add 1 tin of tuna in olive oil.

This menu is very common in Spanish households in the summer. I don't think you would ever open our fridge at home without also finding a jar of Gazpacho in it. I even remember drinking a cup of Gazpacho first thing in the morning after partying the night before. It's a good hangover cure! So for a wonderful light summer menu, let us recommend Gazpacho, followed by our salad, and then a good juicy melon.

The white beans salad recipe is inspired by Spanish chef's Carlos Arguiñano cookery book . Born in the Basque Country (Beasáin, Guipuzcoa), home of one of the best cooking traditions of the Peninsula, he now owns a restaurant in the coastal village of Zaráuz. He has published several cooking books and has done several TV Shows in Spanish TV.



½ kg white beans

1 large, ripe well favoured tomato

1 green pepper

1 onion

2 boiled eggs

9 full spoons of olive oil

3 full spoons of vinegar

toastmaster

Anglo-Spanish Society Visit to Sotheby's

BY PAUL PICKERING

Members of the Anglo-Spanish Society gathered at Sotheby's on 28th May for breakfast and a private view of Spanish paintings which were to go under the hammer on the following Wednesday. Our guide to the rich and eclectic collection on offer, Marta Enrile, is Senior Specialist at Sotheby's. What a pleasure it was to be taken on a journey of the imagination through Spanish fin-de-siecle and early twentieth century painting by one who wore her expertise so lightly. At time of writing many of the works we saw with Marta could still be viewed on the auction house's website. Among the highlights were Joaquin Mir's "La Llegada del Pescado, Vilanova", and a small beach scene by Sorolla: "Dia de Tempestad, Valencia". Rural Galicia of some hundred years ago is wonderfully evoked in Alvarez de Sotomayor's "Salida de Misa en Jornes". The sense of a fleeting moment of ordinary village life is seen captured forever in Lagueruela's "Calle en un Pueblo". The Jewel in the crown of the ephemeral collection was Sorolla's "El Bautizo", a large oil painting that had remained in the same family that had commissioned it 110 years ago and is so redolent of the artist's affection for his native Valencia. A big thank you to Sotheby's and Marta Enrile for providing such a memorable morning and to Lady Lindsay for her role in organising the event.



Marta Enrile standing before the Sorolla "El Bautizo"

Photo: Paul Pickering

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	Mr David McFall	Mrs Untza Sale

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Anglo-Spanish Review is due to appear in October 2010.

Articles for consideration for this issue should be sent to the Editor by the beginning of September.

Ideally articles should be about 800 - 1200 words and typed, with double spacing. They may be submitted on CD Rom, disk, preferably Windows/Word or by email. Illustrations, preferably black and white, are always welcome, and may be provided as prints, negatives or email.

Editor: Adrian T Wright, Chestnut Lodge, 81 Park Lane, Histon, Cambs CB24 9JJ.

Tel. 01223 237725. Email: at.wright@btinternet.com

what's on...

Eaton Square Concerts:

18 March 2010: Patricia Rosario (Soprano) and Craig Ogden (guitar)

Leading soprano Patricia Rosario has given performances at many of the world's leading festivals and concert halls, in operas, symphonies and many recordings. For the opening concert of this new season, she is joined by Craig Ogden, in a fascinating programme of Spanish and Latin American songs by Gerhard, Albéniz, Sor, Torroba and Rodrigo.

Tickets: £10* (reduced price for A-SS members with £1 from each ticket sale donated to The Anglo-Spanish Society - please quote discount code ESC106AS)

Booking information: Web: www.eatonsquareconcerts.org.uk

Tel.: 0208 144 3656

Post: send cheque with details of tickets required to:

Eaton Square Concerts, c/o 111B Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London, N1 0QH. Seating unreserved. *This special price applies to the entire Spring Eaton Square Concerts Programme - please visit website for more details on other concerts.

Dualia & La Leyenda part of Spring Dance at the London Coliseum

Ballet Nacional de España

Spain's national dance company, Ballet Nacional de España, make a welcome return to London as part of Spring Dance at the London Coliseum with special guest appearance by Royal Ballet Principal Tamara Rojo.

Tamara Rojo will perform with the Ballet Nacional de España for three performances. Tues 27 at 7.30pm, Sat 1 May at 7.30pm and Sun 2 May at 4pm. Tamara Rojo will appear in Romance de Luna which will be performed as an addition to the programme.

For their performances at the London Coliseum, the company perform two of their best loved works. Dualia was choreographed by two of flamenco's hottest stars Rojo and Rodriguez, and explores the sensuality of looks and caresses through movement and music.

La Leyenda (The Legend) was choreographed by the company's artistic director José Antonio as a tribute to the famous flamenco star Carmen Amaya who died in 1963. The piece portrays images from her life - from the slums of Barcelona to the glamour of performing on the American stage in the 30s and 40s.

For more information and bookings: www.eno.org/box.office@eno.org / 0871 911 0200

Instituto Cervantes in London - Spring Programme includes:

April 8, 18:30 - Round Table Discussion: How the British Media views Spain

April 14, 18:30 - Poetry Reading by Jaime Siles

April 23, all-day event - World Book and Copyright Day Celebrations

May 6, 18:30 - Series: Deciphering the Alhambra by Juan Castilla

May 19, 18:30 - Tribute to Dr Gregorio Marañón with Tom Burns

June 16, 18:30 - Exhibition and Round Table Discussion: Thirty Years of the Spanish Constitution

For the full spring programme and more information the above events: www.londres.cervantes.es/cenlon@cervantes.es / 020 7235 0353

Literary Panel with Alberto Manguel

8 April

Somerset House

No more details at time of press. For more information in Events section of www.somersethouse.org.uk.

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Photograph Exhibition Antifascistas 5 - 14 May

12 Star Gallery, European Commission

8 Storey's Gate

London, SW1P 3AT

Exhibition open Monday to Friday 10am-6pm and entry is free.

For more information visit the 12 Star Gallery pages of www.ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/02079731992

Picasso: Peace and Freedom

Exhibition in the Tate Liverpool

21 May - 31 August

Admission £10 (£8 concessions)

For more information, www.tate.org.uk/liverpool/exhibitions/Picasso/01517027400

London Festival of Architecture Embassies Project

21 - 25 June

Royal Institute of British Architects

No more details at time of press. Please visit: www.architecture.com/WhatsOn

The above events are supported by the Cultural Office of the Spanish Embassy.

courses...

Knuston Hall, Irchester, Northamptonshire

For more information on the following courses, contact their website or E-mail

enquiries@knustonhall.org.uk or Tel. 01933 312104

Spanish Conversation 12 - 14 November 2010. Tutor Esperanza Fernández. Fee: £125 - £199.

Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset.

For more information on the following courses, contact their website or E-mail dillington@somerset.gov.uk or Tel. 01460 258648

The Joy of Spanish. 8 - 14 August 2010. Fee £618. For those who already have a good level of Spanish. Tutor Chris Pollard.

Five Spanish Heroes. 15 - 21 August pm only. Fee £155 (non-resident). Explores the lives of five modern Spaniards. Tutor Chris Pollard.

Madingley Hall, Cambridge

For more information on the following courses, contact their website or E-mail

www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk or Tel. 01223 746262

Franco and the Spanish Civil War. 17 - 19 September 2010. Fee £350; non-resident £240. Tutor Dr Andrew Lacey.

Intermediate Spanish Weekend. 24 - 26 September 2010 and 8 - 10 April 2011. Fee £350; non-resident £240. Tutor Beatriz Muñiz.

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